

## **Sampson Williams to Andrew Jackson, July 20, 1803, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **S. WILLIAMS TO JACKSON.**

Fort Blount, July 20, 1803.

*Dear Sir* , Your letter of the 11th Instant is now before me, and I truly sorry that I cannot comply so fully with your request as the importance of the case requires, Neither the records or letter from the secretary of North Carolina have been deposited in my office nor I cannot pretend to state the contents thereof so fully as I could wish, for the records contains at least twenty folio sheets, and if the records are true, our late Chief Magistrate gave himself great latitude. to the best of my recollection the secretary states that the Grant of 32000 acres in the name of John Sevier is Bottomed upon consolidated warrants chiefly from Carters office and that Grants had issued upon warrants of the same No and date to the proper person long before. The substance of the letter from the late Governor Sevier to Colo Glasgow I think I do recollect and although he endeavoured to give it a different complexion from what I take to be its real object, I think there is no candid honest man who will not acknowledge that it was intended as a Bribe, he wrote to the secretary that he was highly sensible of his goodness and friendsh[ip] towards him in Executing his business in the manner he had taken the liberty to request, but that there was still a small remainder in the hands of Mr Gordon, that he had instructed Mr Gordon to make him out a plat to the amount of three 640 acres on his compleating his business, and begged him to accept of it in Lieu of office fees etc. now sir we all Know the fees on Issuing a Grant is only 6s prock1 —equal to 75 cents. Who is their will believe that Sevier would give 1920 acres of land for 75 cents without he got it very easy. But surely the people of Davidson County do not want proofs of Seviens having been Guilty of Committing frauds on the publick, if

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they do let them enquire into his conduct in ordering a draft for Sinclairs<sup>2</sup> Campaign, But I rather incline to think some of his most conspicuous friends are in hopes of getting three or four 640 acre tracts, should he be elected, his friends in this Quarter does not pretend to support him for any other reason than that of his being a Violater of the laws, he has got a number of the Jackson County people on fire with the Idea of shortly get Over the Indian line, and two men are now actually at work on the Indian side near Major Russells, one of the mens names is Joseph Taylar. Notwithstanding all this, his interest is declining verry fast and should the people on Obeds river turn out to the Election, I am of Opinion that Jackson County will give Roane a Majority for they are generally honest men. In this County I hope we shall have no crime to answer for in voting for him, but if the state must be disgrased by Electing such a charactar I hope it will be without a Majority from Mero, and should he get every other vote in the District, he will not get that of your real friend

1 Six shillings proclamation money.

2 St. Clair's.